

National Freedom of Information Officer  
U.S. Environmental Protection Agency  
1200 Pennsylvania Avenue, NW (2822T)  
Washington, DC 20460  
Re: Freedom of Information Act Request

June 22, 2016

**Dear FOIA Officer,**

This is a request under the Freedom of Information Act. I would like to request that a copy the oil and gas drilling analyses that I have listed on page 2 of this letter be provided to me as it is generated by EPA. If the entire request cannot be fulfilled in a reasonable timeframe, please contact me to discuss digital format response options and rolling production. Based on our conversations with EPA, this information is maintained by the Office of Compliance in the Office of Enforcement and Compliance Assurance.

As a representative of the non-profit organization, [FracTracker Alliance](#), I would like to request a fee waiver. The analyses you will be providing to us will be shared freely on our website (noncommercial) and serve a public benefit in helping to improve trust, understanding, and data transparency between the EPA, drilling companies, and U.S. residents. As the location and impacts from oil and gas drilling are very sensitive subjects, especially within impacted communities, we hope that EPA will grant us this fee waiver.

We understand that while EPA may obtain data from DI Desktop during different parts of the year and that states report different frequencies, we would like the most recent data available.

For EPA-derived products, we are only interested in the geolocation information from DrillingInfo on the wells.

We also understand that there are limitations imposed on EPA on sharing identifiable data points, and information will be withheld where the density of wells in any particular region is low.

Thank you for your consideration of this request.

Sincerely,

Samantha Rubright, MPH, CPH  
Manager of Communications & Partnerships  
FracTracker Alliance

777 6th St. NW, Suite 700  
Washington, DC, 20001  
[malone@fractracker.org](mailto:malone@fractracker.org)  
(202) 630-6426

**DATA ANALYSES REQUESTED FROM EPA, JUNE 2016****Onshore Active or Plugged Oil/Gas/Coalbed Methane Wells**

- 1) Ratio of wells drilled (SPUD\_DATE) vs. shut-in vs plugged (PLUG\_DATE) over time for entire US<sup>1</sup>
- 2) Top 50 operators (COMMON\_OPER\_NAME) in US with the most active onshore wells as of today
- 3) Drill type (DRILL\_TYPE) by:
  - a) Those top 50 operators
  - b) Count of spud dates per year
  - c) Gas production in 2013 (SumOfGAS13) and 2014 (SumOfGAS14)
  - d) Liquid production in 2013 (SumOfLIQ14) and 2014 (SumOfLIQ14)
- 4) Top 200 counties with the most active onshore wells (only those in production PROD\_FLAG) as of today
- 5) Active onshore well counts on Federal lands in US (FEDERAL\_FLAG) as of 2014
- 6) Top 200 counties in US with the most schools within a mile of an active well (SCHOOL\_DIST\_MI). If this data is available on a smaller geographic scale, such as FIPS code (FIPS\_CODE), we would like it listed at that granularity instead.
- 7) Top 200 counties in US with the most hospitals within a mile of an active well (HOSP\_DIST\_MI). If this data is available on a smaller geographic scale, such as FIPS code, we would like it listed at that granularity instead.

**Water**

- 8) All states where active wells are being operated within sole source aquifers (SSA\_FLAG), along with counts of all (not just active) drilled wells in those aquifers
- 9) Top 200 counties, along with wells counts, in US with the most drilled wells that actively produce oil or gas with liquids production year-to-date exceeding the SPCC threshold (SPCC\_FLAG)
- 10) Number of wells by Top 10 USGS Region, Subregion, Basin, Sub-basin  
([http://water.usgs.gov/GIS/wbd\\_huc8.pdf](http://water.usgs.gov/GIS/wbd_huc8.pdf)) (If this request would seriously slow down the reply from EPA, it can be omitted)
- 11) Ratio of water produced to gallons of oil or MCF gas produced - plotted with trend lines for both stimulations and enhanced oil recovery operations
  - a) National/State/Play/Formation/Field Level Analyses

**Production**

- 12) Top 50 operators by total production, gas and oil [SumOfLIQ\_CUM], [SumOfGAS\_CUM]
- 13) Ratio of wells drilled [SPUD\_DATE] vs. summed total production [SumOfLIQ\_DAILY, SumOfGAS\_DAILY] - summarized for all US, [State], and [FIELD]
- 14) Wells counts for the top 50 counties in US with the most active wells with liquids production exceeding the SPCC threshold [SPCC\_FLAG]
- 15) Yearly plots (2000-to-date) of Liquid Gravity [LIQ\_GRAV] summarized by Drill type [DRILL\_TYPE]
- 16) Yearly plots (2000-to-date) of Gas Gravity [GAS\_GRAV] summarized by Drill type [DRILL\_TYPE]
- 17) Plot of Oil and Gas average annual/quarterly production in total and per day of production [SumOfLIQ\_DAILY, SumOfGAS\_DAILY, SumOfLIQ\_CUM, SumOfGAS\_CUM]
  - a) For entire US, individual states [State], fields [FIELD] and offshore [OFFSHORE]

<sup>1</sup> Unless otherwise stated, we would like data for the entire United States.

- 18) Average time it takes a well to reduce production by 50% of initial production volume, sorted by Drill Type [DRILL\_TYPE] at the field [FIELD] level.
- 19) Plot of summed Cumulative Liquid Production [SumOfLIQ\_CUM] and gas [SumOfGAS\_CUM] by Drill Type [DRILL\_TYPE] at the field [FIELD] level (for each field).
- 20) Plot of summed Cumulative Liquid Production [SumOfLIQ\_CUM] and gas [SumOfGAS\_CUM] vs. summed cumulative water produced [SumOfWRT\_CUM] for each state individually. For each field individually.
- 21) Top 200 counties with the highest rates of increase in well permits month over month for the last 24 months available in the dataset. If permits are not available, active well spud dates will suffice.
- 22) Top 200 counties with the highest rates of decrease in well permits month over month for the last 24 months available in the dataset. If permits are not available, active well spud dates will suffice.

## Air Emissions

- 23) Active well counts and last year available of annual production data of wells operating in current ozone non-attainment zones [count of NNA\_FLAG] for the top 200 counties.
  - a) Is this analysis available for gas plants, too?
- 24) Sum of Liquid VOC emissions [LIQ\_EMISSIONS] for Pennsylvania, California, Colorado by [county] for the last 10 years in the database (if not available, 5 years)
  - a) Is this analysis available for gas plants, too?
- 25) Top 200 counties with the highest oil production by volume in ozone non-attainment zones
- 26) Top 200 counties with the highest gas production by volume in ozone non-attainment zones
- 27) Yearly liquid VOC emissions [LIQ\_EMISSIONS] / active well count summarized by field [FIELD] for the entire US.
- 28) Yearly liquid VOC emissions [LIQ\_EMISSIONS] summed by field [FIELD] in ozone non-attainment zones [NNA\_FLAG], 2000-2015.
- 29) The following requests could go in one table:
  - a) Top 200 counties in US with the most wells that actively produce gas and have liquid emissions exceeding the major source threshold (PSD\_FLAG)
  - b) Top 200 counties in US with the most wells that actively produce gas and have liquid emissions exceeding the extreme major source threshold, for wells that are in the 8-hour ozone nonattainment extreme classification. (NSR\_EXTREME\_FLAG)
  - c) Top 200 counties in US with the most wells that actively produce gas and have liquid emissions exceeding the severe major source threshold (NSR\_SEVERE\_FLAG)